



**For Immediate Release:
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Governor Minner Announces State Employees of the Year
*Two Teams, Three Individuals Receive the Delaware Award for Excellence and
Commitment in State Service*

Dover – Governor Ruth Ann Minner recognized the 2008 recipients of the Delaware Award for Excellence Monday, which ranged from a pair of workers who thwarted a robbery at the Dover tollbooth to a team who put their lives on the line to apprehend a high-level offender after a major altercation.

“We are fortunate to have state employees who are willing to go far beyond the scope of their normal daily routines to help benefit our state and its residents,” Gov. Minner said. “On behalf of the people of Delaware, I thank them for their outstanding efforts. These employees are true role models, and we appreciate their commitment and dedication to our state.”

This year’s winners include:

Shirley Callahan and Robert Bullock of Department of Transportation — This team of Toll Collectors went above and beyond the call of duty to foil a robbery at the Dover Toll Plaza.

Michael Cocuzza, Kevin Hunter, Samuel Elliot, Department of Corrections — This team put their lives on the line while searching and subsequently apprehending a high-level offender after a major altercation.

Amy Jacobs, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control — Jacobs developed the Delaware Rapid Assessment Protocol for wetland assessment and is recognized as a national expert in the field.

Cheryl Rice, Office of Management and Budget — Rice led the team which launched the Delaware Employment Link (DEL) system. She is now a resource to other states that are

working to implement other systems. She did this while battling a debilitating illness and a personal tragedy.

Kelli Steele, Department of Agriculture — Steele developed the “Grown Fresh with Care in Delaware” logo that was advertised on DART buses statewide. She has been key in promoting agriculture throughout the state.

The Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service is part of the national Public Service Recognition Week, which recognizes the men and women who serve in federal, state and local government positions.

To view the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service presentation, go to www.omb.delaware.gov.